

Recognitions at August 2009 State Board Meeting

The American Civic Education awards are sponsored by the Center for Civic Education to recognize teachers for their work to prepare young people to become informed and engaged citizens. The awards are given to elementary and secondary teachers of civics, government and related subjects.

This year's three winners exhibited dedication to teaching young people the responsibilities of citizenship in our democracy. In addition, they demonstrated exceptional expertise and creativity and have been successful in motivating students to learn about the Constitution, Congress and public policy. The award winners share a passion for explaining the work of government in an engaging way and helping young people see that what goes on in Washington is relevant to their lives.

One of this year's honorees is from the Palmetto State. The other winning teachers are from Virginia and Wyoming. They all received an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC last month. There, they participated in an educational program that includes observing floor sessions and committee hearings in Congress, meeting members of Congress and other key officials and visiting sites such as the National Archives and the Supreme Court.

- **Sarah Ann Richardson Turpin – American Civic Education Award**

State Superintendent Jim Rex (far right in photo), State Board member Phillip Bowers and State Board chair Kristin Maguire (at left) congratulate Sarah Turpin, a teacher at Clemson Elementary School in Pickens County. Those who work with Sarah say that she is enthusiastic about imparting the fundamental values and principles of our constitutional system of government. According to Sarah, "Strong civics education is essential to a strong democracy. It is our responsibility to teach our children and raise them to be informed, active citizens throughout their lifetime."



Oracle Global Data Modeling Competition

The Oracle Global Data Modeling Competition challenges students to analyze the requirements of a business and develop a data model that demonstrates the flow of information within that business. This is a sophisticated process that is typically taught in the university setting. It is critical to building database systems and is open to students between the ages of 15 and 19 worldwide.

This year student teams from Egypt, Romania, Serbia, Singapore and the United States earned top honors in the Oracle Global Data Modeling Competition. The teams were honored for outstanding analytical and technology skills used to create a database that tracks and stores meteorological data.

According to the Oracle Academy, these dedicated and innovative scholars stood out among a record number of entries from across the globe. They displayed the business and technology skills required for success in the 21st century marketplace.

The Oracle Academy curriculum teaches students to design and implement a database system that supports various business functions such as sales, human resources, operations and support. Each competition entry was judged for business, technical and communications excellence.

- **Michael Eason – Oracle Competition Award Winner**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Cindy Clark congratulate Michael Eason, Oracle instructor at Stratford High School in Berkeley County. Eason led his students to a second place finish among U.S. finalists and to 11th place globally with their project “Weather Co.” Competition officials said the Stratford team’s record is an example of excellent teaching and talented students performing at the highest level.



Time Warner Cable Champion Principal Award

Time Warner Cable has a reputation for being committed to community service and for its support of public education. One example is the company’s national Champion Principal Award. This honor recognizes an outstanding principal who supports and understands the use of technology as an effective classroom learning resource.

Time Warner officials realize that a principal’s encouragement and support can make a tremendous difference in how effectively technology is used in today’s classrooms. The winner of the 2009 national Champion Principal Award is a local school administrator in the Columbia, SC area.

- **Randall Garty – National Champion Principal Winner**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Rose Sheheen congratulate Randall Gary, principal of Dent Middle School in Richland School District Two. Gary is known for aggressively seeking school programs that reach the long-term goal of preparing his students for a bold, new technological, multicultural, global society. As a winner of this award, Randall received a \$5,000 technology grant. He also was honored during Time Warner’s 20th annual National Teacher Awards event in Washington along with teachers from around the country who developed winning classroom projects.

